

**U.S. 20/26 CORRIDOR
PRESERVATION STUDY UPDATE**
For More Information

Visit our Web site at www.itd.idaho.gov.

- Click on Projects, Southwest Idaho and then U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study.

Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

Persons needing an interpreter or special accommodations are urged to contact the Public Involvement Coordinator at (208) 334-4444 or TDD/TDY (208) 334-4458.

Se les recomienda a las personas que necesiten un intérprete o arreglos especiales que llamen a la coordinadora de participación pública al (208) 334-4444 ó TDD/TDY (208) 334-4458.



**U.S. 20/26 Corridor
Preservation Study Update**



Participants in a May 2007 public meeting review options for the corridor.

The U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study will identify future transportation improvements and right-of-way needs for U.S. 20/26.* The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) are co-managing the study.

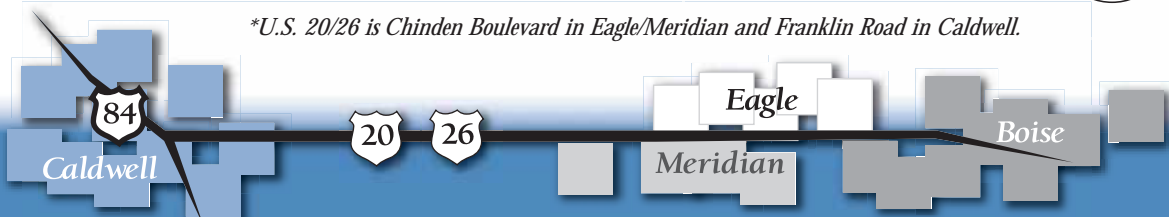
Thank you for your ongoing participation in planning the future of U.S. 20/26.



**Look inside for an update on public input
and find out how the project team
is addressing your concerns.**



**U.S. 20/26 is Chinden Boulevard in Eagle/Meridian and Franklin Road in Caldwell.*



U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study

Newsletter—Winter 2007/2008

ITD and COMPASS met with citizens in May 2007 to gather input on potential roadway realignments, a proposed access management plan and environmental issues for the U.S. 20/26 corridor.

You told us...

You support preserving right-of-way for future roadway needs.

The vision for U.S. 20/26 is an access-controlled divided highway to carry large volumes of traffic at high speeds. Some of you asked:

- **Why is so much land needed for right-of-way?**

To address your concerns...

- ITD must balance the needs of highway users with impacts to adjacent properties, the community and the environment.

The corridor must be wide enough to allow for:

- Additional lanes (some segments of the corridor will need six lanes of traffic)
- Bike and pedestrian facilities
- A roadside "clear zone" for safety
- A median for a divided highway
- Drainage facilities
- Utilities

You told us...

You want to move through the corridor quickly.

You provided input on a proposal for managing access on and off the future U.S. 20/26 roadway. You said:

- **The future system of surrounding roads and traffic signals will be important.**

To address your concerns...

- ITD and COMPASS are working with local governments and highway districts to develop plans for a parallel road system. It will encourage motorists to use local roads for shorter trips and to access properties.
- An access management plan is being developed to improve safety and traffic flow on the corridor. The draft plan was presented at the May 2007 public meeting. Public comments will be incorporated and the plan will be presented to local governments for adoption in 2008.

To view the materials presented in the May 2007 meeting and a transcription of public comments, visit our Web site at www.itd.idaho.gov. Click on Projects, select Southwest Idaho and then U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study.

You told us...

You want to minimize impacts to properties.

You commented on three potential roadway realignments for U.S. 20/26 from Midland Road to McDermott Road. The most often-repeated comments included:

- **Protect homeowners from noise impacts, avoid high-voltage power lines and develop a straight roadway.**

To address your concerns...

- The project team will use a computer model to forecast noise levels generated by traffic.

The noise analysis will be included in the environmental assessment, which will be presented for public comment at a hearing in Fall 2008. The analysis will determine where noise-reduction features may be needed.

- The environmental assessment will compare the impacts of a realignment that avoids the power lines with two other alternatives.

- Engineers are designing the roadway to follow the existing alignment as much as possible.

NEXT STEPS

SPRING

The Corridor Preservation Committee will complete its recommendations to ITD on an access management plan for the corridor. The committee includes local elected government officials, agencies and staff.

SUMMER

Corridor preservation strategies will be incorporated into city and county ordinances and comprehensive plans.

FALL

The Environmental Assessment will be available for public review and comment in Fall 2008.

SPRING

Following approval of the environmental document by the Federal Highway Administration, right of way may be purchased to preserve the corridor. Funding is limited and right-of-way will be purchased over time.

Funds are not yet available for final design and construction of this project.

Project Facts

U.S. 20/26 is one of the few east-west roadways that stretch from Caldwell to Boise. Land adjacent to the roadway is being developed rapidly and right-of-way costs along U.S. 20/26 are escalating. The future is expected to bring mixed-use development that will transform U.S. 20/26 from a rural roadway into an urban corridor.

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) are working cooperatively with cities, counties and local highway districts to keep U.S. 20/26 functioning as a safe, major east-west route. COMPASS and ITD continue to gather input from all stakeholders.

The U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study will identify:

- **The improvements and actions necessary to implement the vision for how this roadway will function as part of the regional transportation system.**
 - **Additional right-of-way needed for future transportation improvements to the corridor.**
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Preservation Study.

Contact:

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is the corridor?

The U.S. 20/26 corridor includes the highway and the area surrounding it between Eagle Road and I-84 in Caldwell. The word 'corridor' highlights the need to look beyond the highway and consider the link between the highway, the roads and driveways that connect to the highway, and the land use next to the highway.

What is corridor preservation?

Corridor preservation is a collaborative process that identifies land use and transportation strategies to preserve land for future transportation needs. The goal is to minimize impacts by planning now for future widening and other improvements. This process uses input from transportation agencies, environmental resource agencies, local governments, landowners, developers and the public.

Who are the key players in the decision-making process?

ITD and COMPASS are co-managing the study. ITD is responsible for project development and preparation of the environmental document. COMPASS, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Treasure Valley, approves transportation investments and provides transportation planning, demographic and traffic forecasting, and air quality modeling for the Valley.

The Corridor Preservation Committee provides recommendations on the project. Citizens provide input at workshops and public meetings and hearings throughout the project.

The Federal Highway Administration is the lead federal agency and provides a decision on the environmental document.

What is the Corridor Preservation Committee (CPC)?

The CPC was created to coordinate land-use and transportation decisions along the corridor. Elected and appointed community leaders comprise the CPC. Cities of Caldwell, Eagle, Meridian, Middleton, Nampa and Star, Canyon Highway District No. 4, Ada County Highway District and ITD are all involved in the corridor preservation study.

Answers to other frequently asked questions are available at www.itd.idaho.gov. Select Projects, Southwest Idaho, and then U.S. 20/26 Corridor Preservation Study.



COMPASS
COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSOCIATION
of Southwest Idaho